

ATTACHMENT F

Sallie Lincoln

From: ice lady [reebee63@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2008 7:03 PM
To: Deanna Lazovich; SOS Exec; aginfo@ag.state.nv.us; Sallie Lincoln
Cc: Pat Hines; Teresa Werner
Subject: A More Efficient and Effective Prison in Nevada
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please make this a part of the public comment for the Board of Prison Commissioner's Meeting July 8, 2008, and provide a copy for each and all commission members.

A More Efficient and Effective Prison in Nevada

Food

There are several states, including Texas that allows inmates to grow their own food and process it for distribution throughout the system. In years of excess, the excess is given to the food banks and local charities.

I understand the Nevada prison system used to grow their own food which the inmates not only consumed but also donated excess to local charities.

Allowing inmates to grow their own food would not only save the tax payers money, but improve their health which would in turn not only lower medical costs, but also stabilize and improve their mental stability. If this were cost effective and could be done safely, would you do it?

Prison Industries Works for Everyone

It is my understanding that in the past, private companies were able to bring products into institutions for inmates to work on or assemble, but it became cost prohibitive and companies found other labor sources. I am unclear how the math works when inmates are earning as little as \$1.00 a day in some prison jobs. Where is the money going?

The State could reduce the Department of Corrections (DOC) payables with the use of inmate labor becoming a receivable. In some states the goal of the Manufacturing and Logistics division is to provide work program participants with marketable job skills to help reduce recidivism through a coordinated program that includes the following:

- Job skills training
- Documentation of work history
- Assistance by local workforce development boards in referring work program participants to employment referral services.
- Manufacture and provide quality products
- Providing products and services for sale on a for-profit basis to the public education system, state agencies, and political subdivisions of the state
- Procure, maintain and monitor vehicles and related equipment
- Warehouse goods and supplies

I found in several states including Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and Arizona, a similar philosophy of reducing

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recidivism by keeping inmates working and training them in real life work place skills. These states also have prison industries that produce a profit which in turn deposit those monies back into the correctional system or into the industry portion of the system to enhance programs and put more inmates to work.

Several states including Indiana and Michigan, inmates are paid prevailing wages for some positions which allows inmates to help families on the outside, provides a savings account for a head start at release time, and allows them to pay for their own housing in prison.

Many states have a garment industry, as we do, but some states have expanded beyond inmate clothing. Oregon's garment industry provides correctional officer uniforms along with those for the department of forestry. Over \$133,000 was requested for uniforms in fiscal year 2007/2008 and \$143,886 was recommended by the Governor at Nevada State Prison alone. That money could be put toward educational programs and the uniforms manufactured by inmates at Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC) which already houses a garment factory.

Some states such as Wyoming started a housing project which builds home for lower income families while training inmates in construction trade skills that are in high demand. The state of Michigan also trains inmates in prefabricating homes for Habitat for Humanity, which are constructed inside prison then reconstructed on the home sight.

Many states allow inmates to earn actual certification in what they are training in so upon released they are well qualified and certified for their trade.

Idaho, among other states, investigates all offenders before sentencing for background and previous history of offenses. Those that show they are low risk are never incarcerated. Inmates are instead placed on probation with an 80% success rate and a cost of just over \$6,000 a year to manage them compared to the national average of \$20,000 per year per inmate to incarcerate.

There is a saying; 'idle hands [and minds] are the devil's workshop'. Inmates with nothing to do but exist does not serve anyone; not the inmate, not the victim, not the prison system, not the community, and certainly not the tax payer.

As you can see, I have done some extensive research into the successes of other states. I would be happy to help in anyway I can to create some successes in Nevada's Prison System.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,
Marie Calzada
17130 East Opal Court
Reno, Nevada 89508

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